NEW CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMP IN FRANCE

The German authorities have closed Ilag VIII, the civilian internee camp at Tost, in eastern Germany, and transferred to a new civilian camp for men at Giromagny, France, the Americans who were in Ilag VIII. Giromagny is in the Department of Vosges, in northeastern France. On the map of prisoner of war camps (published last September) Giromagny can be added in square B3.

The original group of Americans, numbering 88 men, sent to Ilag VIII were picked up in Belgium and northern France by the Germans in 1940. Mr. John A. Parent, the American camp senior who was moved with the men from Tost to Giromagny, has cabled on behalf of the group to "express gratitude to all the benefactors and staff of the American Red Cross for the efforts made to alleviate their distress."

MAIL FOR FLYERS

We wish to repeat an earlier announcement that all first class mail and airmail for American airmen in German camps should be addressed to Stalag Luft III, where it is censored. If the camp where the prisoner is held is other than Stalag Luft III, the camp designation (for example, Stalag VII A, or Stalag XVII B, or Stalag Luft I) should be added in brackets.

When sending snapshots, the name and number of the prisoner should be written on the back.

Notes on Red Cross Packaging Centers

In the early days of March the 10-millionth standard prisoner of war food package was produced.

The Philadelphia plant, of which Mrs. Stacy B. Lloyd has been chairman since its establishment early in 1943, completed its 2,800,000th package before moving at the end of March from 3028 Hunting Park Avenue to 23rd and Chestnut Streets, where it occupies the entire five floors of a former automobile-sales building. The new plant is near the center of the city so that many more people will now have an opportunity to see the assembly line in operation.

Whenever a prisoner of war from the Philadelphia district is reported, the chairman writes to the family inviting them to visit the plant. Its output averages 12,500 packages a day, with about seventy women volunteers serving on each shift. There are two vice-chairmen at Philadelphia—Mrs. S. Leonard Kent, Jr., and Mrs. Henry H. Pease. Each shift has a captain and five line directors who help to keep the operation running smoothly. There are also groups of men volunteers who keep the supply bins filled with the different items that go into the packages.

By the end of March, the output of Center No. 2 at Chicago was close to the 3,000,000 mark. A number of volunteer workers in the Chicago plant, as in the other three, are ne of kin of American prisoners of wa

On March 13, No. 3 Packagi Center at 39 Chambers St., Ne York, celebrated its first birthd and the production of its 3,060,00 food package. Eighty volunteers fr the Queens Central Chapter were duty for the anniversary celeb tion, and a birthday cake was c Later in the day the volunteer sh from the North Shore Chapter he a similar party, and on March volunteers from the New York Cha ter, who man the assembly line f two and a half days a week, held celebration.

The New York Center is operat by 750 women volunteers, divide into twelve three-hour shifts a wee The volunteers are provided by va ous chapters in the Greater Ne York area and northern New Je sey.

In order to acquaint members o their community with the food pack aging operation, the St. Louis Cha ter arranged over a period of sever weeks to bring groups of citizens b bus to the St. Louis Center. Afte taking lunch at the plant canteen the visitors were given the back ground of prisoner of war relief work and conducted through Pack aging Center No. 4.

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PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

VOL. 2, No. 5 WASHINGTON, D. C. MAY 1944

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Relief Shipments to the Far East

DISTRIBUTION REPORT

Preliminary reports have now been received on the distribution of the relief supplies for prisoners of war and civilian internees in the Far East, which were loaded, by the American Red Cross, on the diplomatic exchange ship, *Gripsholm*, at Jersey City last September and transshipped at Mormagoa to the Japanese ship, *Teia Maru*. These reports, which came by cable from the International Committee of the Red Cross, are summarized below:

	Philippines		Japan Korea Manchuria Formosa	Shanghai	Java	Malaya	Sumatra Thailand Burma Borneo	Total Reported Distributed
	To War Prisoners	To Civilian Internees						
Special 13-pound food packages	44,648	24,204	32,712	13,976	10,672	2,616	10,924	139,752
Medical supplies—cases	1,297	685	507	188	137	25	46	2,885
Clothing, men—sets	1,260	1,535	7,505	1,565	____	5	____	11,870
Clothing, women and children—sets	____	4,270	15	950	15	30	45	5,325
Overcoats	____	____	2,070	1,800	____	____	____	3,870
Shoes—pairs	6,996	1,560	11,664	1,872	816	204	864	23,976
Toilet sets, men	14,130	1,050	12,330	900	30	____	30	28,470
Toilet sets, women and children	____	4,270	15	950	15	30	45	5,325
Shoe repair materials—cases	263	73	101	28	26	6	28	525
Tobacco assortments—cases	143	69	73	____	____	2	3	290
Bed sheets—cases	10	41	____	____	____	____	____	51
Recreational supplies, YMCA—cases	63	42	103	____	____	____	____	208
Religious materials, NCWC—cases	____	____	20	5	____	____	____	25

At all the points listed, distribution of the supplies to prisoners of war and civilian internees is understood to have been completed.

Detailed reports have also been received on the distribution made to many of the camps in Japan. The Osaka camps, for example, received 8,000 of the special 13-pound food packages, 137 cases of medicine, 1,875 sets of heavy clothing, 525 overcoats, 2,916 pairs of shoes, 25 cases of shoe repair materials, 3,900 comfort sets, and 18 cases of tobacco. At Zentsuji, where the camp strength is much less than at Osaka, the men received 1,600 food packages, 22 cases of medicine, 375 sets of clothing, 105 overcoats, 588 pairs of shoes, and 600 comfort sets. Distribution on approximately the same basis was made to all the camps in Japan proper.

British and Canadian Red Cross Supplies

In addition to the supplies sent by the American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross sent 24,240 standard food parcels, 60 cases of miscellaneous food, 74 cases of medical supplies, 13 cases of miscellaneous supplies, and the British Red Cross sent 891 cases of medical supplies. These supplies were off-loaded at Singapore for distribution in the surrounding areas and Netherlands East Indies, and at Yokohama for distribution in Hong Kong and Japan. The supplies for Hong Kong are still being held at Yokohama awaiting opportunities for shipment to Hong Kong.

German Camp Notes

Stalag III B

The youngest prisoner of war at Stalag III B is the American spokesman for this camp, according to a recent report. He is Sgt. Clyde Bennett, age 22. "He has assumed his task," the report stated, "with enthusiasm and ability, and has found capable assistants."

There were about 2,700 American prisoners at Stalag III B at the end of February, a large part of them being away from the base camp on work detachments. One detachment recently had a strength of about 700 men.

While the American section at Stalag III B was numerically the strongest, the camp also contained French, Russian, Yugoslav, Dutch, and Italian prisoners of war. The recent arrival of a substantial number of Italian prisoners is said to have caused overcrowding at the camp. The German commander's office was reported to have been "helpful and sympathetic" in the organization of camp life at Stalag III B, and, despite overcrowding, the huts were said to be clean and orderly.

There was no chaplain for American prisoners, the YMCA has reported, until last September, when a Catholic priest was transferred from Ilag VII Z, a civilian internment camp. He was Father Samolewicz, an American of Polish origin. He began by holding two services every Sunday, and short prayer meetings every evening. His assistant was Sgt. John Pacholsc.

Although about one-half of the American prisoners at that time (last September) were Protestants, they had no chaplain. Two lay ministers—Sgt. Gray and Sgt. Berger—were holding regular Protestant services. Sgt. Gray stated that he preached twice every Sunday to an audience of several hundred men. Two other lay preachers also administered to the needs of the men in work detachments. These men had begun last September to build their own chapel. The urgent need of the prisoners for Bibles, prayer books, and worship materials was being met from Geneva by the YMCA and the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

The library, in the other half of the hut which houses the camp church with its 350 seats built by American prisoners, had over 6,000 volumes last September. Several months earlier the camp had only 200 volumes which had been donated by the German commander. As in the case of the church, most of the library's interior fittings had been made from Red Cross boxes. The work detachments were supplied with Red Cross packages and books from the main camp.

An orchestra of 21 men had been formed at the base camp, the musical instruments having been furnished by the YMCA. Sgt. Boettcher, a professional organist, was the conductor. He also conducted the choir at religious services. The orchestra was permitted to visit the work detachments once a month.

Kloster Haina Lazaret (Stalag IX A)

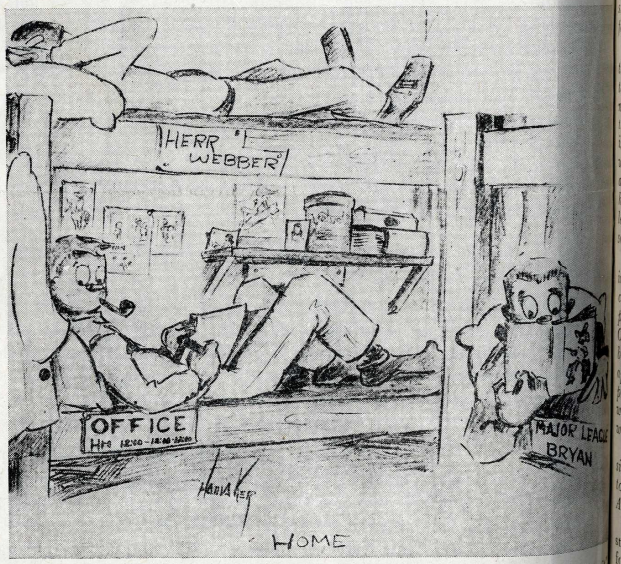
The Kloster Haina Lazaret near Kassel, dependent on Stalag IX A, was closed a few months ago. Of the sick and wounded American prisoners of war (numbering about 40) in Kloster Haina Lazaret at that time, a few have been repatriated, several were sent to Bad Soden, and the remainder transferred to Lazaret Obermassfeld. Obermassfeld, which is dependent on Stalag IX C, is in Thuringia, in central Germany. Prisoners of war repatriated from Kloster Haina and Obermassfeld have spoken highly of the care and attention they received there.

Stalag Luft III

The strength of Stalag Luft III is continually increasing, the latest report available giving the number of American officer-airmen there at over 2,000. The spokesmen at the four camps into which Stalag Luft III is divided, according to a recent report, were: East Compound, Group Captain Kellett (British); North Compound, Group Captain Wilkes (British); Middle Compound, Colonel Spivey (American); South Compound, Colonel Goodrich (American). The South Compound, which is all-American and has men from practically every state, was only opened last September. Within two weeks the men there had begun to build a new theater, and to prepare a playing field by digging up tree stumps and roots. They were permitted to use the fire service reservoir as a swimming pool.

Stalag Luft VI

Recent reports have indicated the arrival of a substantial number of American noncommissioned airmen at Stalag Luft VI, which is located at Heydekrug, in the northernmost part



"Home" at Stalag Luft III. By Lieut. Leonard E. Hamaker, cartoonist for "The Circus" produced fortnightly by American prisoners of war at Sagan, Germany.

of East Prussia near the Lithuanian border and close to the Baltic Sea.

Stalag Luft VI is a new camp, opened in June 1943, for noncommissioned officers of the Royal Air Force, many of whom had been transferred from Luft I and Luft III. At the end of February, the number of American prisoners at Stalag Luft VI exceeded 200, but the British greatly outnumbered them at that time. Since it was a new camp, much work was needed to get it organized for sports, entertainments, and educational activities. As most, if not all, of the prisoners there are noncoms, and so not required to work outside the camp, idleness has been a constant threat to them. The men transferred from Stalag Luft III brought large quantities of materials for sports, music, and entertainments. They also brought about 6,000 books, mostly for educational needs.

Stalag XVII B

The following letter from S/Sgt. Kenneth J. Kurtenbach, American spokesman at Stalag XVII B, dated Krems-Gneisendorf, Austria, November 11, 1943, was received by the International Committee of the Red Cross at Geneva:

We received on November 1 a carload of clothing, shoes, cobbler's tools, and equipment. It was transshipped to us from Stalag VII A, our former address.

Words cannot express the appreciation that the men of this Stalag feel toward the Red Cross for the shipment. It means that every man of the Stalag, numbering two thousand, is now all equipped warmly for the winter. It was our foremost need, and now, thanks to you, our needs have been filled. We have an excellent cobbler's and tailor's workshop, so those supplies were also helpful.

Our organization is now entirely independent, as we also have our own community cookhouse. If there is any provision in the American Red Cross organization for bulk food to be furnished us, it would be greatly appreciated. We have one week's supply of packages left, so any help that we receive on standard food parcels will be greatly appreciated.

We of the American Air Force sincerely appreciate the help given to us by your organization and the American Red Cross.

Large shipments of Red Cross standard food packages have gone forward from Geneva to Stalag XVII B since the above letter was written.

LIFE IN TOKYO CAMPS

The letter below is from a missionary who returned last December on the *Gripsholm* after 34 years' residence in Japan. His home was in Tokyo.

It was impossible for us to visit the camps where the prisoners of war were kept. My wife and I were free for the first year of the war. After that, we were interned for a year until the time of our evacuation. The two types of camps, civilian and prisoner of war, were quite distinct. The civilian camps were visited periodically by a representative of the Swiss Legation in Tokyo. I understand, however, that it is difficult even for the Swiss Legation to make contact with the war prisoners' camps.

However, it so happened that a Roman Catholic priest, who came to our camp in the spring of 1943, had been a chaplain in the Philippines and was taken to the camp in Japan with the regular prisoners. From him I was able to gather a little information which may be of interest to you. Camp No. 1, Tokyo area, is what we knew as the Shinagawa Camp. Shinagawa is in the southern end of Tokyo and lies along Tokyo Bay.

I imagine that their main problem is proper food. The priest reported that the boys get Japanese food, which consists largely of rice. They receive bread once in about ten days. Of course, there are the foodstuffs which the Red Cross provides, and I understand that the boys had received some of them.

The boys in the camps are expected to do some work on the outside. Some handle freight; others work on roads. I understand from the priest that the boys are not driven very hard. In fact, there seems to be no actual mistreatment. As long as the boys behave themselves, the men in charge seem to be kind enough. The fact that the men have work is really a blessing, for life in a camp can become very boring.

The boys may get the two English dailies which are still published in Japan, and they may have a radio, but they cannot get any news except such as the Japanese censor permits. I know definitely that efforts were being made to get books for the prisoners of war. Some medical attention is available for them.

AMERICAN INTERNEES IN SWITZERLAND

The American airmen interned in Switzerland have been transferred from Macolin to Adelboden, where they are living in "Camp Maloney." The camp, which is installed in the Hotel Nevada Palace at Adelboden, was named Maloney in honor of the first American aviator to lose his life on Swiss soil.

A recent report from a Delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who had visited the men at Adelboden, stated that he had found "an atmosphere of order and organized activity." The mornings were given over to study and lectures, the afternoons to sport, laboratory work, and hobbies. There were motion pictures on two evenings a week, and lectures on other evenings. All internees had to be in camp by 9:30 P. M. Captain Kramer, the Swiss commander of the camp, commended the conduct of the Americans under his charge.

Two club lounges had been installed, and tastefully decorated, in the hotel—one for officers and the other for noncoms. There were private rooms for those studying music; a well-equipped photographic laboratory, and another section for courses in radio construction and repair. The men were required to take courses filling three hours each morning, and a wide range of subjects was available to them.

Professor A. Velleman, of the University of Geneva, has been engaged as director of education for the internees, and he is assisted by Captain Lloyd Free of the American Legation staff at Berne. Lieut. Andrews is the camp's educational officer. The senior American officer is Captain Woodward, the recreation officer Lieut. Oakes, and the executive officer Lieut. Geron, the report stated.

MAPS

Since the publication in Prisoners of War Bulletin last August and September of maps showing the approximate locations of camps in the Far East and Europe containing American prisoners, many changes have occurred. Instead of trying to keep the old maps up to date, it has been decided to prepare new ones. The new map showing camp locations in Europe will be published in the June issue. The new map showing Far Eastern camp locations will appear in July.

A First Contact Across Barbed Wire * *

Visit to an American Prisoners of War Camp (Stalag III B)

The camp was clearly to be seen from the train, approaching the quiet little German town of Furstenberg. The charming and peaceful-looking landscape on the right-hand side of the railway line suddenly flattened out and changed into an endless row of wooden barracks. Why, this was not a camp; it was quite a city of its own! Barracks in all directions, separated by streets and squares and sportgrounds, where occasional games of volley-ball were taking place. But most dominating of all was the barbed wire, surrounding every inch of this vast area; endless miles of ugly-looking barbed wire, only interrupted here and there by the threatening silhouette of a watchtower.

These are the daily surroundings of millions of young men at the present moment, in various parts of the world. Those are also the actual surroundings of over 2,000 American prisoners, mostly taken in Tunisia, who suddenly and bewilderingly have had to adapt themselves to that strange and restricted life of a prisoner of war. This being a recently erected camp, the prisoners had not yet been able to establish a regular contact with their own people at home. For this reason, the European Student Relief Fund was particularly proud and grateful for the opportunity given to one of its secretaries to visit this camp of American prisoners, to get in touch with lonesome students cut off from any kind of intellectual life, and to give them new hope for the future by offering them educational help and support.

In the company of a Delegate of the International Red Cross, I arrived at the desolate little railway station of Furstenberg. The German officer who is going to be our guide politely ushers us into a military car. He speaks excellent French and English and shows a keen personal interest in the recreational and educational welfare of the prisoners. The same goes for the Commandant, to whom we are introduced after a short drive which brings us to the official headquarters of the camp. After discussing with him the ways and means for starting educational work in his camp, such as the intricate matter of classroom space, I am introduced to the American spokesman, and his personal assistant. The spokesman, Flight-Sergeant C. Bennett, is a newspaper man in civil life, and his assistant, Sergeant R. Gollomb, is a lawyer, B.A. and L.L.B., of Wisconsin University. They are keen and fine young men, enjoying the full confidence of their fellow prisoners.

When I explain to them that I am here as a representative of the E. S. R. F., of fellow students who want to help and to show their feeling of responsibility and student solidarity, Sergeant Gollomb quickly replies with obvious signs of happy excitement: "Well, sir, this is exactly what I have been longing for during these first months of settling down. It would do a world of good to us all if we could soon start an organised educational programme. But all we've got are a few tattered novels which mysteriously were brought along in uniform pockets all the way from North Africa!"

Organizing Work

With no more formalities, we walk straight down the camp street to the neat little office, which is the daily residence of the spokesman and his small staff. I am placed in an "easy chair" made out of wooden packing cases from the American Red Cross which have recently arrived with supplies to the great joy of everybody. We get down to the first organising work without delay, for the time is precious and all too short. Here is a pioneering task which the E. S. R. F. has always regarded as one of its most vital responsibilities. All the students in the great camp must be listed and contacted individually. They must all be informed by what means they can be helped by the E. S. R. F. in view of continuing their university studies during the dragging days of captivity. Most of this work has naturally to be done through the channel of the educational leader of the camp. Sergeant Gollomb, who will be chiefly responsible for educational activities, offers to prepare a list as soon as possible, giving the names and full particulars of every student in the camp, which list is going to serve as a basis for the future contact between the E. S. R. F. and this camp.

The main thing which has to b done during my actual visit is draw up a preliminary educationa programme. Sergeant Gollomb ha all titles ready at hand of those boo which will be most urgently require for this purpose. Two larger grou for the study of French and Germa will be formed as soon as any us ful textbooks arrive. Both groups wi be led by Gollomb, who shows a r markable command of language Not only does he speak German an French without difficulty, but also when hearing that I am a Swede, h greatly surprises me with some polit phrases—in Swedish. Being from Wi consin, where Swedes are everybod next-door neighbours, he explains one can hardly avoid picking up certain amount of Swedish. Neverthe less, I am duly impressed and ver pleased indeed.

Obtaining Textbooks

However, we have to get back t serious work. We note down a seri of textbooks which will be require for a group of second-year law stu dents. A happy coincidence ha brought about that this subject which Sergeant Gollomb is particu larly well qualified to conduct, is rep resented by the largest percentage students in the camp. In this specia field the great problem will be to ge hold of the recognised American au thorities as quickly as possible, sinc European authors will hardly be o the same value for teaching Amer can students their own particula law cases and juridical practice. W arrange that the E. S. R. F. will cab to its student supporters in USA t the necessary books, while all possibl efforts are being made to obtain a least some suitable substitutes i Geneva. A large amount of notebook and other study material will also b needed, but happily enough, thi can be abundantly provided throug our new secretariat in Sweden.

For other subjects which are a put on the initial schedule, such a accountancy, engineering, etc., th necessary textbooks will be mo easily obtained from the E. S. R. stock in Geneva. When we closed o little meeting, we had good hope t the educational activities would so

***This article is reprinted from* Prisoners of War News, *published by the Scottish Branch of the British Red Cross Society. It was written last fall by Mr. Yngve Frykholm, of the European Student Relief Fund.*

running smoothly in this camp, in e same manner as in the numerous her prisoner of war camps with hich the E. S. R. F. is in touch. The mber of university students is not rticularly high. For this very son, all efforts must be made to g the students out of their intel- tual isolation among the mass of eir fellow prisoners and to offer m the material necessary for con- uctive educational work.

Meeting Fellow Students

What this personal approach eans to countless individual stu- nts was made very clear to me, hen we ended up by making a visit- g tour around the camp to see how e boys were getting on in their dif- ent barracks. Every now and then rgeant Gollomb picked out a stu- nt from the grey and inquisitive wd surrounding us and introduced e to him. I fully realised, as in a lden flash, what the E. S. R. F. eans to this and to that individual dent prisoner when I was led up a spectacled young man with the rdic-sounding name of Linder. I d a brief chat with this lonesome d somewhat bewildered looking w student and told him that we uld be glad to give him every pos- ble help to continue his studies dur- g captivity. Like most of his fellow isoners, this student had not yet eived a single communication m home since being taken prisoner re than four months previously. d here he was unexpectedly ap- oached by a fellow student from e outside, offering personal and in- vidual assistance for his particular ellectual needs. "My, this was a rfect Godsend, I must say!" was his lf-stammering reaction. "I thought y time in this camp was going to be mpletely wasted!" His eyes were mply shining behind his spectacles he thanked me for this offer, which him meant a new ray of hope, a w bit of meaning in a meaningless orld.

Prisoners of War Bulletin is sent free of charge to those registered as next of kin with the Office of the Provost Marshal General, to close relatives of American prisoners of war, to American Red Cross chapters, and to workers engaged in prisoner of war relief.

If we have omitted the names of any persons falling within these categories, they may be added to the mailing list by writing to your Red Cross chapter.

Gilbert Redfern,
Editor.

Repatriation from Germany

By Marion Hale Britten

Since the return of the *Gripsholm* in the middle of March, with 35 seriously sick or seriously wounded American prisoners of war from Germany, government departments and the American Red Cross have received many inquiries concerning the possible repatriation or exchange of other prisoners and civilian internees. There is no one answer that applies to all such inquiries, but they can be divided into various categories.

The first and largest group are able-bodied prisoners of war. There is, at the present time, no arrangement between nations for the exchange of such prisoners. The exchange recently completed between this country and Germany, and the two *Gripsholm* exchanges between this country and Japan concerned chiefly civilian internees, diplomatic personnel, newspapermen, and Red Cross workers. The 14 seriously sick or seriously wounded American prisoners of war who returned from Germany last fall, and most of the 35 who were repatriated in March, had been examined by mixed medical commissions which had certified them as seriously sick or seriously wounded.

Article 68 of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 provides that belligerents are bound to send back to their own country, regardless of number or rank, "seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners of war after having brought them to a condition where they can be transported." Article 69 of the Convention provides for the appointment of mixed medical commissions, each to be composed of three members, two of them belonging to a neutral country and one appointed by the Detaining Power. These commissions make all decisions regarding the seriously sick and seriously wounded prisoners. They examine those prisoners of war who request examination, and those whose cases have been proposed by the powers in whose armies they have served.

Qualifying for Repatriation

The United States and Germany have agreed to observe, on a reciprocal basis, the model agreement attached to the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention. This model agreement defines the degree of incapacity that shall be considered sufficient to qualify a prisoner of war for repatriation.

The Department of State is making every effort to see that the names of all United States prisoners in Germany who might be eligible under the terms of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention and the model agreement attached thereto are proposed for examination by the mixed medical commission. The department will be glad to receive from families any names of seriously sick or seriously wounded prisoners of war, together with the evidence in each case which demonstrates the possible eligibility of the prisoner for repatriation. If the evidence is adequate, the department will forward the names to the Swiss government, which represents American interests in Germany, with the request that they be proposed for examination by the medical commission.

Adequate evidence from the next of kin would include such statements as:

"My husband has tuberculosis."
"My husband has been blinded."
"My son's arm (or leg) was amputated."

Such evidence, however, would need to be substantiated by giving the source of the information. It is not sufficient to present statements like:

"My husband is in a hospital."
"My son was wounded."
"I have not heard from my brother for months."

Protected Personnel

Another group of detainees who are not strictly prisoners of war but are often captured with servicemen are medical, sanitary, religious, and volunteer aid society personnel. The Red Cross Convention of 1929 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field, in Articles 9 to 12 inclusive, provides that such personnel shall be returned to the country to whose service they were attached as soon as a way is open and military exigencies permit. An arrangement for such cases has been agreed upon with Germany, but no such personnel have yet been returned to this country because they were needed to care for their captured compatriots.

Reports received here from various sources, including those of visits to camps and hospitals by Delegates

(Continued on page 12)

Pointers for Next of Kin

LETTERS

Be careful to follow mailing instructions exactly.

Do not use V-Mail forms.

Be sure that the address is correct; letters should not be sent in care of the American Red Cross or the International Committee.

It is essential to print or type letters for prisoners held by Japan. For Europe, if it is not convenient to type letters, they should be written clearly.

Letters to Japanese-held prisoners must not exceed 24 words in the text. To prisoners in Europe it is preferable that they should not exceed one typewritten sheet.

Avoid the use of slang expressions (for example, "Can't get to first base"). They confuse censors and delay mail.

Because of censorship and distribution problems in enemy countries, families should not write oftener than twice a week, and once a week is preferable. There is no limit, theoretically, to the number of letters a prisoner may receive. Experience has shown, however, that too great a volume of correspondence slows up delivery at the other end. As the number of prisoners grows, and the traffic dislocations caused by bombing and military operations increase, the strain on the postal service will not diminish.

Prisoners much prefer letters to greeting cards, for one reason because the arrival of seasonal cards can never be accurately timed.

Prisoners of war, and especially if they were farmers, like to hear about weather and crop conditions at home.

Unmounted photographs may be sent in letters but not in parcels. The prisoner's name and complete address should always be written on the back of the photograph. Prisoners' barracks are drab, and the men like to have pictures and ornaments to help relieve the dreary monotony of their surroundings.

Many relatives and friends put postage stamps on letters to prisoners of war. The United States Post Office wishes it to be made known as widely as possible that all mail (except air mail) is carried free to prisoners of war. The charge for air-mail letters is now 6 cents for each half-ounce, to European countries.

Recent letters from German camps indicate that air-mail letters arrive about one month quicker than ordinary mail. Mail for prisoners in the Far East goes by air, free of charge, to Teheran.

Remember that prisoners of war need the expression of their families' love and feeling for them, as well as news of home. Let them know that they are not forgotten and that their place in your lives is waiting for them.

PARCELS

Follow carefully the instructions given in the circul "Gift Parcels to Prisoners of War and Interned Civilian issued by the Foreign Economic Administration, a sent out by the Provost Marshal General's Office, Wa ington, D. C.

Put something personal in each box, something th has a meaning to that individual man.

Plan and assemble your gifts in the 60-day interva between mailing times.

Provide things that will be appreciated and need seasonally about four months ahead, which is appro mately the time it takes for delivery to German camp

Be sure no patriotic slogans or other printing are o your box or on the containers of anything you send.

A useful item to include is a set of name tags, with th prisoner's name embroidered on tape. He can then stit them on handkerchiefs, socks, etc. Other suggestions a peanuts; seasonings (pepper not permitted); hard cand tea; dehydrated or dried fruits; toilet expendables li toothpaste, soap, razor blades, towels, and shaving crea dominoes, playing cards, and a cribbage board. If an prisoner receives unneeded supplies, he can always a range trades with fellow prisoners.

Fuel for heating is now very scarce in Germany, an if the war in Europe lasts another winter, prisoners wi be glad to have extra sweaters and large, all wool scarf The past winter, fortunately, was a comparatively mil one in most of Europe.

There is a great lack of eating utensils in most Ge man camps. Plastic utensils are convenient to send i next-of-kin parcels.

The American Red Cross has constantly in mind th need for variety in the standard food package whi every American prisoner of war in Europe receives on a week—unless transportation disruptions, or other ac dents of war, retard deliveries to the camps. But fro six to nine months must necessarily elapse between th decision to make changes in the contents of the pac age and the arrival of the revised package at the camp In the meantime, the next-of-kin parcel affords a co venient means for the prisoner to obtain some welcom variety in his diet.

If a full-size package every 60 days is hard to send a small one each time is better than a larger and mo expensive one at longer intervals. The love and thoug in the package are much more important to the re than the money value of the contents.

Unfortunately, no route is available for sending pac ages to the Far East at this time.

Prisoners Need Books

any relatives and nds of American pris- s of war in Europe do know that it is possible send, direct from the kseller, 60 pounds of ks a year (at the rate 5 pounds a month) to United States prison- of war and civilian in- ee held by Germany. ortunately, however, it till impossible, because lack of transportation ilities, to send individual ss parcels to Japanese- d prisoners.

nly one package of ks each 30 days will be warded by the Censor's ce in New York to any prisoner of war. A eful record is kept there each package sent out, that this shipping rate ll not be exceeded. If o packages arrive for the ne prisoner in one nth, one will be held the Censor's Office un- the following month. A ound package and a ound package could not be sent the same month, as the rule is ictly "one package a month" with maximum weight of 5 pounds.



Most British camps in Germany now have well-stocked libraries. This picture shows the one at Stalag XX A.

Choice of Books

It is surprising how many books t directly about the war still con- n references and allusions to which e German authorities might ob- t, or are by authors who have en "black-listed." Our own cen- ship is inclined to allow anything rmitted by the German censors, ith the one exception of material at would give important informa- n to the enemy.

Most nonfiction books written in e last three or four years are about e war, directly or indirectly, as re also a good many novels.

What books that it is possible to ad would interest a prisoner most? The answer to this is fairly easy: ny book that is sufficiently well ritten, and that has enough body nd content and purpose to hold he reader to the world the author is describing.

A prisoner of war lives in mo- notonous and drab surroundings, but through books he can escape into another world. His intellect, his imagination, or his emotions are stimulated by what he reads. Even books that he had read before may be enjoyable, not only for their content but for their reminders of the times and places where he has read them in his old, free days.

If your prisoner is a voracious reader, the Pocket Library reprints are much lighter in weight, and you could therefore send many more books in a 5-pound package. They are also much less expensive. Your bookseller will show you catalogs of the Modern Library, Penguin, Everyman, Grosset, and Garden City publishers.

These reprints have a wide choice, from Shakespeare and Homer through Mark Twain, Thornton Wilder, Jack London, Raphael Sabatini, John P. Marquand, and Daphne du Maurier, to mention only a few.

Books published in these small, lightweight editions are apt to be good reading because they have already survived the test of a first publishing. They are also almost all prewar, and so avoid censorship problems. They weigh from one-quarter of a pound to a pound or more and range in price from 25¢ to $1. If there are any patriotic slogans on the covers of these paper-backed books, be sure to remind the bookseller to take them off.

Perhaps you would prefer to send some book you yourself have discovered recently, or maybe relished and laughed over years ago. The first thing you have to consider is whether that good book will pass the German censors. It's no use to a prisoner of war if it never reaches him. So here's a rule-of-thumb questionnaire. If the answer is No, in every case, the book stands a 99 percent chance of getting through:

Is it political? (Avoid even nonpolitical books which criticize the Axis or extol the democratic ideal and the century of the common man.)

Has it maps, charts, travel information which might conceivably help a prisoner to escape? (Even such innocent-seeming books as Richard Halliburton's are banned.)

Does it deal with the war?

Does it contain information on radio, espionage, technical or military or naval matters?

Is it by an emigre from enemy-held territory?

These conditions have been laid down by the German authorities.

BACK NUMBERS

The reserve supply of Volume I of Prisoners of War Bulletin is now almost used up. The few hundred copies of each issue still available are being held for area and chapter use.

Chapters which do not have a complete file of the Bulletin, or two complete files in the case of the larger chapters, are urged to write to their area office for the missing numbers.

Until recently, a complete set of Bulletins was sent to the next of kin of each newly reported prisoner of war, but those desiring to see back issues will now need to consult their local chapters.

Letters

(The following letters have been furnished to the American Red Cross by relatives of prisoners of war. All mail is censored by the Detaining Power.)

From Far Eastern Camps

Camp Omori, No. 373, Tokyo
August 30, 1943

(Received at Washington, D. C., March 18, 1944)

Dear Dad:

Best wishes to everybody at home. Wish I knew how you all are doing. This is my second letter along with two cards. No word from you yet, tho some of the men got radio messages from home. We expect U. S. mail fairly soon. I am well and health is much better than this time last year. We've moved here to a nice camp. Naturally, we spend lots of time talking and thinking about life in peace times. We have lots of plans and hopes for the future. I am sending a photo along and hope you like it. Keep up your courage. This war can't last forever.

(The above prisoner was captured at Corregidor. His mother had previously received a card from him dated March 11, 1943, and a letter dated December 22, 1942, when he was at Camp Shinagawa. She wrote: "He will be 28 on April 15 (1944), but from his picture he looks like 50. He did not look as thin as I had expected.")

Tokyo, No. 5 Camp
Kawasaki, Japan
September 29, 1943

Dear Mom, Dad, and Family:

Hope you are all in good health. I am feeling as good as possible. My time is well occupied here. I have not as yet received any answer from you. I miss you all very much. Contact Red Cross and send what you can.

Give my love to the relatives. I am thinking of them all the time. Also give my regards to Bob, and the rest of the fellows. Give my love to Betty also. I hope to see you soon. My love to all of you.

Hoten Prisoner of War Camp
Mukden
(Undated. Received at Chicago, Ill., March 17, 1944)

Dear Mamma and Dad:

This is the second opportunity I've had to write. I am still in the best of health and getting along fine, but of course am very homesick. I haven't heard from you as yet but am looking forward to it soon. I hope that you are both well and that everyone else is O.K. at home. Please don't worry about me—just be patient as I am trying to be. Time passes quickly. Take care of yourselves and write.

Love to you both.

(The above prisoner was captured at Corregidor. His first card was received on October 19, 1943.)

No. 5 Camp, Tokyo Area
Kawasaki, Japan
September 25, 1943

Dear Mother:

May I take this opportunity to wish you the coming holiday greetings and hoping this New Year will bring us together.

The letters I received from you and several friends made last Christmas a delightful one, and I am expecting to hear from you in the near future. Give my regards to all.

Camp Holmes Internment Camp
Trinidad, Philippines
August 23, 1943

Dear Folks:

The Imperial Japanese Army has given us permission to write to you. We have not heard from you since we were interned, tho we received one cable message from Dr. Aasgaard, and the Hinderlies received one from Rolf Syrdal.

We were interned in Baguio, December 28, 1941. At first we were at Camp John Hay, in Baguio, but on April 23, 1943, we were moved to Camp Holmes, five miles north of Baguio. Here we have more barracks space and more extensive grounds. The view from our mountain home is beautiful. To the north are ranges of pine clad mountains. Below us, a wide valley runs in a northwesterly direction to the shores of the China Sea. Behind us are green hills, from which we get our firewood for the camp. We are cool here, for we are a mile above the sea. While you are sweltering in summer heat, we put on sweaters to keep warm. We are quartered in three barracks. As the women are in the majority among our 500 internees, they occupy two of the barracks, while the men are in the third.

Our diet has been quite varied, and in many ways has been adequate, with plenty of rice, which sometimes reminds us of rice and curry. On the whole we have been in good health. We have not yet had to be hospitalized in our small but efficient camp hospital, staffed by a number of capable doctors.

Time does not hang upon our hands. We do all our own work in camp. Each of us is assigned to a particular detail and spends between two and five hours a day in camp work. I've washed dishes, gathered firewood, cared for camp goats, and helped serve meals. I've preached at our Lutheran services every second or third week, so sermon preparation takes a good deal of time. I also taught a 15 weeks' course in Romans, using the Greek text, and a Norwegian commentary. So you see I've learned a little Norwegian too.

Shanghai
(Undated)

Dear Daddy:

Hope your health and the rest of the family's is good. You probably wonder what I have been doing for the past year and a half. Really it hasn't been much. We work around our camp and farm. This work helps to keep me in good health. The Red Cross has sent us several prisoner of war parcels, medical equipment, and clothing. They were very much appreciated very much by the prisoners. The food boxes are all gone, but I understand and hope there will be more in the future.

We are living the same as Japanese soldiers, and governed by Japanese military discipline. I can hardly wait till I get home. Dad, will you please send some pictures of the family and tell me where Laurel is. I am anxious to know. In the past year and a half I have only received one letter from home. Would like to hear more often. Hope your business is flourishing. Love and regards for sister, mother, and rest of the family.

(The above prisoner, a Marine corporal captured at Tientsin, China, has been reported transferred from Shanghai to Camp Osaka, Japan.)

From European Camps

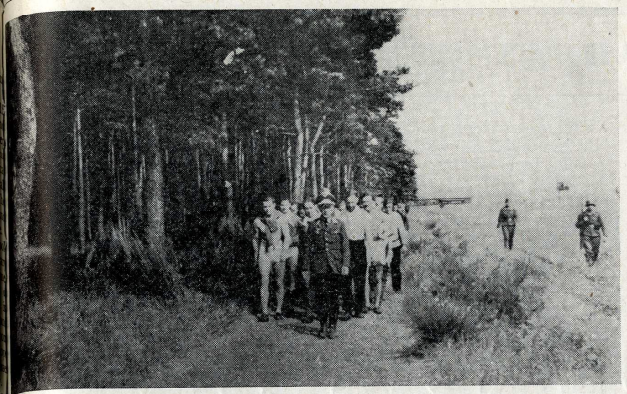
Stalag II B
December 7, 1943

Dear Sister:

Just a few lines to say that I am feeling swell and things are going O. K. here with me. Working every day, as you know I am a shoe cobbler. The weather here surprises me. It is not too cold as yet, but it stays rainy and chilly. Tell everyone there hello and give them my love and regards. Keep sending packages every 60 days and tobacco. Send some pictures too. As I want that sun-tan shirt I have there at home and also a sun-tan tie. If possible Sister Rose, send some "Pearl White" tooth paste. I want a cheap pen and pencil set. One you can buy in a shop. Also a pair of scissors and a small sewing kit, with buttons. When you write don't be afraid to write



Unidentified prisoners of war at Zentsuji, Japan. This picture was received from the British Red Cross.



Prisoners from a German camp for airmen go for a swim under guard.

...ost and write often, too. I can't write so ...ters but can receive quite a few. I can only ...rite two letters like this and four post ...ds a month. Got some amusements. We ...ve a library, a band, and sporting equip...ent. We are making plans now for the ...ristmas show and holidays. Would sure ...e to be home, and my every prayer is that ...won't be long. Mondays are all Christ...ases to us for we get a Red Cross parcel ...e man. Never fail to give to the Red Cross ...they sure have done a lot for me. Will ...goodbye for this time.

Oflag 64
January 2, 1944

...ar Mom:

...Well, 1944 is here upon us. I hope all the ...ds are well and will have a prosperous ...d happy New Year. I still haven't received ...r mail from home, but I hope to before ...g. When you send me a book parcel, see ...ou can get hold of a Spanish-English ...ctionary. We had a beautiful service on ...ristmas Eve. We have a choir that can ...ly sing. We have no Protestant chaplains, ...t the two Catholic chaplains hold a gen...l service for the Protestant officers. I have ...ce Bible which was given to me by a ...ilish chaplain in Italy.

Dulag Luft
December 26, 1943

(Received at Chicago, Ill., March 1, 1944)

...ar Mom and All:

...Well I guess I've caused some anxious ...ments around home. To start off, we were ...ed down over Germany a few days ago. ...n't worry any, we are all safe and sound. ...s we've got a lot to be thankful for. I'm ...re your prayers helped us all. As yet we ...e not at our permanent camp. Will write ...d give you my address as soon as possible. ...n't write until you get it. By the way, the ...d Cross is sure treating us boys O. K.

Stalag Luft III
December 8, 1943

...ar Folks:

...I received your September 11 letter. With ...ople back home like you and Dorothy ...o write such cheerful and encouraging let...rs, I know life isn't altogether hopeless. ...e pictures you sent are really swell, but ...ldn't sure can find the darndest contrap...ons for hats. It really is good to receive ...mmies from home. They adorn the wall alongside my office (bunk). I'm expecting to receive your September parcel any time now. It will be a swell Christmas present. The pipe and tobacco you sent were very timely. I had just started smoking a pipe. How did you know?

I'm now spending a little time on the camp biweekly newspaper as a cartoonist. The paper, all done in pencil, is a one copy issue and hangs on the cookhouse. I received the drawing paper that you sent through the YMCA, and my winter days and evenings should be well spent in cartooning. And it's just the paper I need, too. I hope that we all have a happy New Year and that your chicks can soon flock back to our Dad and Mother.

(The above letter is from Lieut. Leonard E. Hamaker. His latest cartoon is published elsewhere in this issue.)

Stalag II B
December 26, 1943

Dear Family:

I didn't tell you this before, but I'm working on a big farm with 12 of my buddies. I'm not working very hard. I'm getting enough food and we didn't have such a bad Christmas. We got lots of new clothes and Christmas food parcels from the Red Cross. Besides this, we get food packages pretty regularly, so please don't worry. Believe me, I'm okay and in good health.

Stalag Luft III
December 25, 1943
(Received at Richmond, Va., March 7, 1944)

Dear Dad:

Merry Christmas (just a month or so late), but what's a month? One thing I've learned here is that rushing was unnecessary. Never again do I intend to get excited when things don't go off on time. It takes letters about three months to get here, but Clipper mail arrives about a month ahead of free mail. Last week we saw Hepburn and Grant in "Bringing Up Baby." It was new to me. The sox are beautiful; the scissors, nail files, gum, and candy very good. Parcels are coming through in about sixty days. Would like more shirts like this green one, or some of my old green cadet shirts and slacks.

We have a beautiful Christmas tree (spruce, I think) glistening with shreds of cellophane, tinfoil, and ornaments.

Supplies For Shanghai Camps

Substantial amounts of food were distributed during the month of February by the Delegate of the International Committee to civilian internment camps in Shanghai, according to cabled advices. These supplies included:

Canned fish	6,765 tins
Meat	6,139 cans
Jam	4,700 jars
Maltose jam	45 lbs.
Cocoanut oil	2,400 lbs.
Cracked wheat	6,800 lbs.

and such miscellaneous items as soap, flour, peanut butter, vegetables, fruits, salad oil, fresh pork, and milk powder. Toilet articles, medicines, sports equipment, cigarettes, and tobacco were also distributed. These supplies were purchased by the Protecting Power (Swiss) representatives from funds provided by the United States and Allied governments.

From funds furnished by the American Red Cross, the International Committee Delegate at Shanghai also purchased during February, for the prisoners of war camp at Kiangwan, a large assortment of supplies which included:

Lima beans	4,000 lbs.
Rolled oats	2,000 lbs.
Corn flour	2,000 lbs.
Barley	1,000 lbs.
Noodles	2,000 lbs.
Fresh beef	500 lbs.
Bacon	1,500 lbs.
Corned tongue	600 lbs.
Lard	500 lbs.
Peanut butter	160 lbs.

CHESS SETS FOR AMERICAN PRISONERS

The Department of Agriculture Post No. 36 of the American Legion has arranged to send 1,000 complete chess sets for American prisoners held in Germany. Arrangements have also been made by Mr. Herbert H. Holland, Chairman of the War Service Committee at Post No. 36, to obtain gratis from publishers in the United States sufficient books on chess so that every camp or hospital in Germany containing American prisoners will obtain at least two.

The Special Services Division of the United States Army has also supplied recently, through War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA, 1,200 chess sets for American prisoners.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. I have changed my address since my son was reported a prisoner of war. Whom should I notify?

A. Prisoner of War Information Bureau, Office of the Provost Marshal General, Washington, D. C., assuming you are the prisoner's next of kin. The Provost Marshal General will notify the Red Cross. If you are not the next of kin but receive the BULLETIN, please notify the Red Cross, through the local chapter.

Q. I note that addresses of prisoners of war should include the prisoner of war number. My son is in Philippine Islands prison camp No. 2, but I have never had a number for him except his U. S. Army serial number. How should I go about getting his prisoner of war number?

A. Prisoners of war in the Philippines have never been given P. O. W. numbers, so far as is known here. Therefore, it is not necessary to include such a number in your son's address. His army serial number might help to identify him, and could be included.

Q. Can the pastor of the church I belong to write letters to my son who is a prisoner of war in a camp in Tokyo, Japan?

A. According to the Geneva Convention, prisoners of war may receive letters from relatives and friends, without limit as to number. Of course, your pastor would need to observe the rule made by the Japanese concerning length (not over 24 words) and be careful to use the exact address given by the Provost Marshal General's Office.

Q. I have been writing to my husband in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, using the address given me by the Provost Marshal General, but I have received three cards from my husband telling me to address letters in care of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. Which instructions should I follow? I am particularly anxious because in the two years since my husband has been a prisoner I have not had any acknowledgment of the many letters I have written.

A. The instructions concerning addressing letters which you received from the Provost Marshal General came to his office from Japan through the International Committee in Geneva. It would certainly be better to use the official address as it was given to you.

Q. My son is a prisoner of war in Rumania, and he wrote asking me to send him his home town newspaper. Please let me know if I could send it to him, or if the same rules apply in Rumania as in Germany.

A. No printed matter can be sent to prisoners of war by relatives in this country except books, and these must be ordered sent direct from booksellers or publishers.

Q. I have been told that many American boys try to escape from prisoner of war camps in Germany and that they rarely succeed. Are they severely punished for trying it?

A. Attempts to escape from prisoner of war camps and from working detachments outside the camps are frequent no matter in what country the camps are located. The percentage of successful escapes, however, is very small—unless the escape has been well planned and the prisoner has a thorough knowledge of the surrounding country.

The penalty in most countries for an attempted escape is usually from fifteen to thirty days' solitary confinement, with one hour outdoors each day for fresh air and exercise. During the period of confinement in German camps, the prisoners as a rule are not permitted to receive parcels.

Q. My husband, who is a prisoner of war, has asked for a map of Europe. May I send him one in a letter, since printed matter is not permitted in next-of-kin parcels?

A. It is probable that no prisoner of war would be allowed by the German censorship to receive a map of any kind.

Q. I see frequent mention of YMCA representatives visiting prisoner of war camps in Germany. Do representatives of the American Red Cross make similar visits?

A. United States nationals are not permitted to visit prison camps in enemy countries. The Delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross who visit the camps are Swiss nationals. So, too, are the representatives of the Protecting Power. The American Red Cross has its own representative in Geneva who works closely with the International Committee.

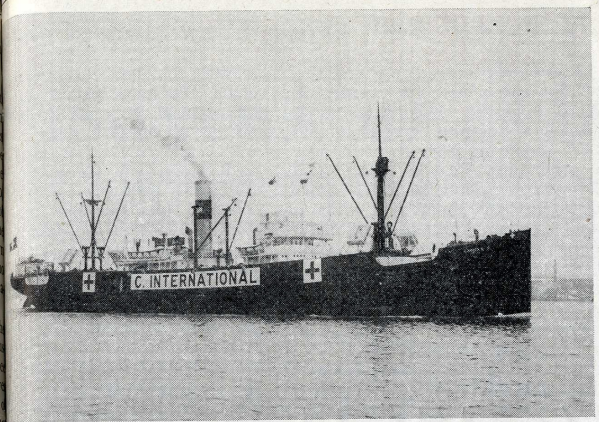
The War Prisoners' Aid of the YMCA operates under the auspices of the World's Committee of the YMCA. Its representatives who regularly visit prisoner of war camps in Germany are not United States nationals. As a rule they are Swiss, Danish, or Swedish nationals. Neutral representatives of other welfare organizations also visit the camps.

Q. About nine months ago, I received a label from the Provost Marshal General's Office to use for sending a package to my brother who is interned by the Japanese. Since then I have received no more labels, but I have noticed in the BULLETIN *that next-of-kin parcels may be sent once every two months. Can you please advise me where to write for the labels, or am I mistaken about the period?*

A. Parcel labels are issued to next of kin of prisoners of war in Europe every two months, but it has not yet been possible to extend this facility to the next of kin of prisoners in the Far East because there is no regular means of transportation.

Q. Are prisoner of war officers held in Germany put to work?

A. No, officers do not have to work but privates, providing their health is good, may be put to work in factories, mines, saw mills, breweries, cold storage plants, glassworks, railroad yards, etc., or on roads, farms, or in the forests. These work detachments, for the most part, live outside the base camp, thus affording the prisoners a welcome change from the confinement of barbed wire. They are paid a small daily wage and are usually given better food than that provided by the Germans in prisoner of war camps.



Caritas II, latest addition to the Red Cross fleet, which left Philadelphia at the end of March loaded with prisoner of war supplies.

Extracts from Letters

From Tokyo No. 2 Detached Camp, dated October 3, 1943: "I am well. Please write through Red Cross condition of family. Impossible to write and send pictures of wife and children. I am so lonely for news from home. I work every day and lead a clean, wholesome life with no liquors. I think constantly of you all and pray for our early reunion. May God love and bless and keep you all as He has cared for me."

———

From a woman waiting two years for word from her husband, a reader in Los Angeles recently received a dated card from him at Mukden Prisoner of War Camp. He wrote: "It has been a long time since you have heard from me and I am taking this opportunity to let you know that I am all right. I hope to see you soon."

———

From Stalag Luft III, dated December 24: "Tonight my thoughts drift home and to my loved ones. Christmas Eve here at camp will be ideal tonight because we will have the opportunity to celebrate midnight Mass and to receive the Sacraments. My heart goes back to you all."

———

From Stalag VII A, undated, received at Grand Rapids, Mich., March 1: "I finally have time to write a letter but I can't tell you much except that since July 29 I've had some very useful and exciting experiences, and on the whole I say I didn't do too bad for myself so far. Am helping the war effort. Life here isn't so bad. It could be better, but under the circumstances I guess I shouldn't complain. The country and climate are really wonderful."

———

From Stalag Luft III, dated December 15: "Saw another movie today. That makes about four months. There's a fellow in this camp who used to be a game warden in the Lakes. His name is Brewster. I heard the orchestra from the South Compound over day and it was good. Lou Pape, who is in our 'combine,' is from Kirkwood. One of the fellows who was shot down the day I was received 6 letters recently, and I am still anxiously awaiting my first. If you mail by transatlantic clipper, with 30 cents postage, letters are received quicker. Please send plenty of chocolate bars in the parcels. Also toothbrush, comb, 2 shirts, 2 trousers (O. D.), woolen socks, light and heavy underwear, heavy sheepskin gloves and sweater (turtle-neck). Purchase things of exceptionally good quality, and, in the case of socks, etc., in gay colors."

———

From Stalag VII A, dated September 3: "We have started a new club here called the Bearded Club. We have lots of fun with our ball clubs and various games. Also lots of sunshine, roomers, and whatnot."

———

From Stalag Luft III, dated December 9: "My third personal parcel came quickly. We were happy over the unexpected contents and very surprised that seven such records could arrive unbroken. You can't imagine all the fellows who come around now to ask where I got victrola records, how long it took, and, much more important, if I could lend out some. Everybody seems to like Goodman, and I'm glad the boys come to me for the latest on hit parades."

———

From Joseph C. McDaniel, Stalag II B: "We have no chaplain here and I conduct services on Sundays as well as Bible study class on Wednesdays. I have written several articles for our prison paper, and made sketches of home."

———

From Stalag Luft III, dated December 13: "I am now in a British staffed hospital and am receiving the best of treatment. My leg will be in a cast for two months yet, but I am getting around on crutches now and the injuries will leave no permanent effect. I have been doing quite a bit of reading lately as they have a good library."

———

From Oflag 64, dated December 20: "Last week we had a hobby exhibit in camp and it was surprising to see the beautiful carvings, drawings, and models that have been made here, also some needlework."

RATION COUPONS FOR PARCELS

Extra coupons for shoes, sugar, and other rationed items on the permitted list to be sent in the bimonthly next-of-kin package to prisoners of war or internees may now be had by making special application. General Ration Order, No. 17, effective April 5, 1944, gives general directions to the rationing officials concerning such coupons. The next of kin should apply in writing to the nearest District Office of Price Administration, the address of which can be obtained from the local rationing board.

The application should contain:

1. **The name and address of the applicant**
2. **The name of the place from which the goods will be sent and the statement that the parcel will go by mail**
3. **The name and address of the person to whom the parcel is being sent**
4. **The number and kind of points for which application is being made.**

Parcels containing the items for which special ration points have been obtained must conform to the regulations sent out by the Provost Marshal General's Office.

THE RED CROSS NEWS

The first two issues of *The Red Cross News*, which were shipped from the United States last September and October, duly reached American prisoners of war in German camps. They were "extremely well received and appreciated" by the men, according to a cable from the American Red Cross representative in Geneva.

The Red Cross News is published monthly, and several later issues, the cable stated, had reached Geneva for distribution to the camps through the International Committee of the Red Cross. Advance copies are sent to Geneva for clearance with the German censorship to avoid unnecessary delay when the bulk shipment of copies arrives.

Arrangements have also been made at Geneva so that copies of each issue are going, through the International Committee, to its delegate in Tokyo with the expectation that the Japanese authorities will permit them to reach American prisoners held by Japan.

The early issues of *The Red Cross News* contained 8 pages of American news, but the number was increased to 12 pages so that more space could be devoted to sports, special articles, cartoons, and to the monthly round-up of news from every state.

Prisoners of War Bulletin invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.

Aid for French Prisoners

Canadian Cooperation

The Canadian Red Cross has readily agreed to cooperate with the American Red Cross in a clothing program for French prisoners of war in German camps, whose number exceeds 800,000. Practically all of them are in urgent need of clothing.

Major General B. W. Browne, Assistant National Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross, has been designated to handle this matter on behalf of the Canadian Red Cross; and the Canadian Army, on the initiative of General Browne, has made available a large amount of clothing and shoes for this joint operation. The first shipment went forward from Philadelphia to Marseille this month, and will be distributed in the camps under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Count Henri d'Ornano is now in Washington charged by the French Committee of National Liberation with looking after the interests of French prisoners of war. In addition to clothing, large purchases of standard food packages, medicine kits, and comfort articles have been made, through the American Red Cross, for French prisoners in German camps.

Notes on Red Cross Packaging Centers

Red Cross Center No. 1 at Philadelphia completed its transfer in April to newly leased premises at 23rd and Chestnut Streets and has been producing packages at the new location since April 10. The present Philadelphia plant has a floor space of about 60,000 square feet, which is double the size of the previous plant. Philadelphia produced its three millionth package in April.

Center No. 2 at Chicago appropriately celebrated its first birthday on March 8, nearly 400 workers attending the occasion. Work continued throughout the day, however, and 11,841 packages were turned out. Service pins were presented by the packaging center chairman to the ten women volunteers who had completed 288 hours or more during the year. One volunteer headed the list with 829 hours.

A number of repatriates who returned in March on the *Gripsholm* from civilian internment camps in Germany have visited Packaging Center No. 3 at New York and were able to give the workers at the center vivid pictures of life in German camps and of the importance of food packages to prisoners of war and civilian internees. One visitor described how every scrap of material in the packages was made use of, and another told how the internees had made Christmas mince pies with mince meat from corned beef and raisins, apples from over a garden wall, and a crust made from pulverized biscuit and oleomargarine Red Cross packages. In addition standard food packages, the New York Center during March packed invalid food packages and 60,0 medical kits.

The Honor Roll of Center No. at St. Louis now includes approximately five hundred names of volunteer workers who are relatives prisoners of war. Each of three the volunteers has five sons in the service. Six young women who regularly work in a St. Louis defense plant from midnight to 8 a. m. report promptly for the morning volunteer shift, which begins at 9 a. m.

Repatriation

(Continued from page 5)

of the International Committee of the Red Cross, indicate that good medical care is being given to the American sick and wounded now held in Germany or in German-controlled countries. These reports have been substantiated by the statements of seriously wounded members of the armed forces who have been repatriated to this country.

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PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN

Published by the American National Red Cross for the Relatives of American Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees

VOL. 2, No. 6 WASHINGTON, D. C. JUNE 1944

One Year Old

A year ago the first number of PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN was issued for the relatives of American prisoners of war and civilian internees. At that time Mr. Norman H. Davis, Chairman of the American Red Cross, in an introductory statement set forth the purpose of the new publication. It would serve, he said, "to give information, consistent with war conditions, about American prisoners of war and the methods for providing aid and comfort to them."

The issues of the BULLETIN which have since come regularly each month from the press have tried faithfully to achieve the original purpose as set forth by the Chairman. The first number, for instance, had as its principal feature a concise summary of the rights of prisoners of war. Other articles from time to time have given helpful advice to the next of kin and detailed information on what they could do, through the sending of supplementary packages and special parcels of books and tobacco, to alleviate the moral and physical distress of their loved ones.

Factual Reports on Camp Conditions

Other outstanding features of the BULLETIN have been the pages of interesting quotations from personal letters written by servicemen and civilians held in European and Far Eastern camps and the columns of questions and answers where some of the problems and rulings worrying the anxious next of kin have been solved or clarified for them. Camp notes, and detailed reports on the condition of camps in Europe and the Far East containing Americans, have been published regularly and as promptly as the information could be gathered from responsible sources. The aim throughout has been accurately to inform, help, and advise the families at home, and not simply to console or comfort them.

From time to time the BULLETIN has also served to publicize important governmental rulings concerning the sending of cables, letters, and packages to American prisoners of war. It has faithfully and succinctly attempted to report the various steps taken by the United States government through the Protecting Power, and the American Red Cross through the International Committee of the Red Cross, to implement the Articles of the 1929 Geneva Prisoners of War Convention which govern the treatment of military prisoners.

Our Prisoners in the Far East

It is a matter for profound regret that the American Red Cross, in cooperation with other interested agencies, has so far been only partially successful in persuading the Japanese government to conform to the rules laid down in the Geneva Convention. But this vital matter will not be allowed to drop. Readers of the BULLETIN have been kept informed of all the efforts unceasingly made to send relief to American and Allied prisoners held in the Far East. They also know that the British Commonwealth and American Red Cross societies are striving, through diplomatic and Red Cross channels, to open a route along which relief supplies may be allowed to pass freely.

With the active support of the Air Transport Command of the United States Army and the invaluable cooperation of the Russian government, an expeditious mail channel to American prisoners in the Far East has been opened about which the families have been promptly informed. Through reports, articles, and photographs they also know of the Red Cross fleet which shuttles the Atlantic, and they have the assurance that we will not rest until a similar fleet carries relief supplies over the Pacific.

Keeping Relief Channels Open

Of all the manifold activities of the Red Cross during war, none is perhaps so complex and yet so important as relief to prisoners of war. Important it is too that the relatives of these prisoners be reassured about this relief and made aware of the many intricate problems facing the Red Cross in keeping open channels of communication and supply to those in prison camps overseas.

In the months that lie ahead, therefore, when the total number of prisoners will undoubtedly increase with each new step along the road leading to our country's final and most certain victory, there will be much for PRISONERS OF WAR BULLETIN to do. Guided by the experience of the past twelve months, I am sure its editors will continue in the future to publish with accrued sagacity the information and guidance to those for whom the publication was founded one year ago—the relatives of our American prisoners of war and civilian internees.

RICHARD F. ALLEN
Vice Chairman
Insular and Foreign Operations
American Red Cross